

State of New Mexico



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Madrid: Online Predator Sentenced to Prison

Kaufman Sentenced to 9 years

(Albuquerque, NM) A joint investigation conducted by Attorney General Madrid's Internet Crimes Against Children and detectives from the Naperville, Illinois Police Department led to the arrest of Thomas H. Kaufman, 38, of Albuquerque in February 2005. In June 2005 Kaufman pled no contest to six felony counts: one count of Child Luring, a 4th degree felony, and five counts of Child Pornography, each count a 4th degree felony. Each of the counts of Child Pornography stemmed from child pornography images found on his computer.

Kaufman was given a nine-year suspended sentence and five years supervised probation by State District Judge Albert S. "Pat" Murdoch in October 2005. In addition, numerous conditions were placed on Kaufman, including that he could not have a computer or access to Internet and he was required to register as a sex offender.

On Halloween night state probation and parole officers along with Bernalillo County sheriff's deputies made surprise visits to numerous registered sex offender, including Kaufman. At that time Kaufman was found to have a computer and Internet access. In addition he was found to have a photograph of the young girl he was charged with trying to lure into a sexual encounter.

Today, District Judge Murdoch found that Kaufman violated the conditions of his probation and sentenced him to nine-years in prison and one year parole.

"I believe that sending this predator to prison is not only just but it sends a message that child luring is not taken lightly by New Mexico courts. The Internet has created an opportunity for predators to find our children. And we know that the predators are out there in cyber space. I want them to know that law enforcement is looking for them and when we find them we will prosecute them. Predators may think the Internet offers anonymity, but I suggest they think again," Attorney General Madrid said.

"This case points out just how much a predator wants access to a child. Kaufman was on probation and told to stay away from computers and the Internet but he didn't. His desire for a child was greater than his fear of prison. Parents should take note," Madrid added.

"I established an Internet Crimes Against Children Unit because of the clear danger posed by on-line predators. We need the public's help with this effort. I want to encourage the public to

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report suspected predators to my office. If anyone is aware of a person trying to lure a child over the Internet or sending sexually explicit material, I encourage you to report it to my Internet Crimes Against Children Unit because it is a crime,” Madrid said.

Suspected predators may be reported online at nmcybersafety.org or calling the ICAC investigators at 222-9000.

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